

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-12 are pending in this application. Favorable consideration is requested.

The claims have been amended to place the claims in more conventional U.S. patent claim format. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-9 and 11-12 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Drobnik (U.S. Patent 7,041,048). This rejection is moot for at least the following reasons. The Drobnik patent issued on May 9, 2006, and stems from a U.S. patent application filed on October 16, 2002. Applicant's priority application was filed on July 3, 2002, which is prior to the filing date of Drobnik on October 16, 2002. To swear behind Drobnik and eliminate it as a reference, attached is a Rule 131 Declaration from the inventors.

Claim 10 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Drobnik in view of Fluent (U.S. Patent 4,223,674). This rejection is rendered moot because the attached Rule 131 Declaration swears behind the Drobnik reference, and, as already acknowledged by the Examiner, the Fluent reference does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention (see, e.g., the Examiner's statements in the second sentence on page 2 of the Office Action which confirm that the claims already distinguish over Fluent).

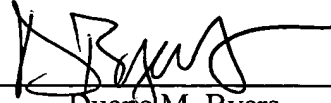
Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits a notice to that effect. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case or would like to discuss it over the phone, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

• MATHIEU et al
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Duane M. Byers
Reg. No. 33,363

DMB:lfo
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100